

January 14, 1976

penalty, any person who willfully fails to pay the tax or any part thereof shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$500 for each violation".

Now just to understand these amendments even a little better, will you turn to the survey that is back of the amendments, that would be the fourth page. This is a recent survey of cities who are levying the taxes that we're talking about here for Nebraska. There are lots more of them, but these were selected because I'm sure that you have visited these cities and you have been paying these taxes. They range from 1% to 10% room tax. These are taxes that you, as a visitor to these cities, are paying to help promote that state. There's no reason in the world why we shouldn't be collecting those to promote our state.

Turn to the next page and that shows the amount of money that the states in our immediate vicinity are collecting for tourism. Now I shouldn't say "are collecting". This is the amount of money that is spent for tourism. You'll notice that South Dakota spends \$847,000; Colorado \$660 ... or Wyoming and Colorado \$754, etc.

PRESIDENT: Two minutes, Senator.

SENATOR KREMER: Nebraska spends \$198,000. This is not enough to do the job sufficiently. Therefore, .... Wait, one more page that I want you to see and that's the last page. This shows the states that are collecting this tax in the immediate vicinity. I ask that this amendment be adopted and added to LB 339.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Cope amendment has also been reinserted in this years Journal. It's found on page 171. There's now an amendment offered by Senator Frank Lewis.

I move to amend the Cope amendment. On page 2, strike line 7 after period; and strike lines 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, Section 9 .... This is not a surprise amendment for the introducer of the bill. He and I have discussed this. He may have something to say about it later. The concern I have on this particular bill .... I did have a kill motion on it. I have withdrawn the kill motion in hopes that there would be an attempt to buy what I'm trying to say here. Section 9 sets out that the county may appoint a convention and visitors committee to administer the convention and visitors fund, and make expenditures thereto to carry out the purpose for which the fund was created. That part's alright. If we're going to pass the bill I believe it ought to be passed under the guise that we're given the responsibility to local elected public officials.